

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 18 NOV 2004

WIPO

PCT



Applicant's or agent's file reference P5230PC00	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/IS 03/00022	International filing date (day/month/year) 06.08.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 06.08.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A22C25/17		
Applicant SKAGINN HF. ET LA.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 3 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
 - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 05.03.2004	Date of completion of this report 17.11.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tei. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Kock, S Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2173 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/IS 03/00022

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-11 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-15 filed with telefax on 11.08.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1/14-14/14 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/IS 03/00022

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-14
	No: Claims	15
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-14
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-15
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

- 1) The closest prior art is constituted by D1 = WO-A-98/05215. The subject-matter of present independent claims 1 and 12 essentially differ from the disclosure of D1 in the aspect of form-freezing the fillet of fish by blow-and-touch followed by simultaneous removal of skin and bones (notably pin bones). Conversely, D1 teaches to first remove the bones and following this, optionally, to skin the fillet. The novel and inventive aspect of removing bones together with the skin (cf. description page 3, lines 30-37), in combination with blow-and-touch freezing which ensures a high degree of freezing of a shell of the meat whilst not freezing the meat in the middle is neither disclosed in the available prior art nor is it readily derivable therefrom (Article 33(2)(3) PCT).
- 2) Claims 2-11, 13 and 14 are dependent claims and are likewise considered to meet the requirements of the PCT with regard to novelty and inventive step (Article 33(2)(3) PCT).
- 3) The product of claim 15 cannot be seen as fulfilling the requirements of the PCT with regard to novelty. A skinned fish fillet having its pin bones removed, as eg. known from D1, cannot be distinguished from a fish fillet obtained by claim 1 of the present application, hence the subject-matter of claim 15 lacks novelty (Article 33(2) PCT).
- 4) The subject-matter of the present application is considered to be industrially applicable (Article 33(4) PCT).